(c) if not, the reasons for cancelling tender for bandwidth expansion;

(d) whether the demand from ISPs has been examined before inviting tenders;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has not abandoned its plan to augments its internet bandwidth.

(c) Two separate tenders for International Gateway bandwidth were floated, one over Satellite and other over Optical Fibre. The tender for Gateway Bandwidth over Satellite has been finalized and Advance Purchase order issued on 11th July, 2003. The tender for the Gateway Bandwidth over Optical Fibre has to be cancelled as none of the bidders were found technically compliant.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The requirement of International Gateway Bandwidth for customers including that of the ISPs has been taken into consideration while floating the tenders.

Telecommunication system in Manipur

1195. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government's scheme to extent normal and regular telecommunication system in the hilly districts of Manipur;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the pace of the progress;

(c) the factors contributing to the slow progress of the works; and

(d) the steps taken to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) All the five hilly districts of Manipur State are

having digital electronic exchanges on reliable media. There is plan to increase the switching capacity in four districts and all the five districts are planned to be brought on State-of-the-Art OFC media during the year 2003-04.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Due to insurgency in the State, progress of the work is slow.

(d) The concerned authorities are approached from time to time for necessary assistance.

Surrender/Disconnection of Land Line Telephones

1196. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has witnessed a decrease in a number of land lines during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of the telephone connections that have either been surrendered or disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the above said period; and

(c) whether decline in land line telephone connection of MTNL and BSNL is attributed to the poor service provided by these companies, and if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve their services in metros?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. During the year 2002-2003 BSNL and MTNL have added net 22.12 lakhs and 1.21 lakhs landlines respectively.

(b) No. of telephones surrendered/disconnected in Delhi and Mumbai during the year 2002-2003 are:

Delhi -1,51,558 and Mumbai-1,68,830

(c) No, Sir. Reasons for surrender/disconnection in landline telephone connection include switchover of subscriber from fixed line to mobile services and partially due to migration to other operators.